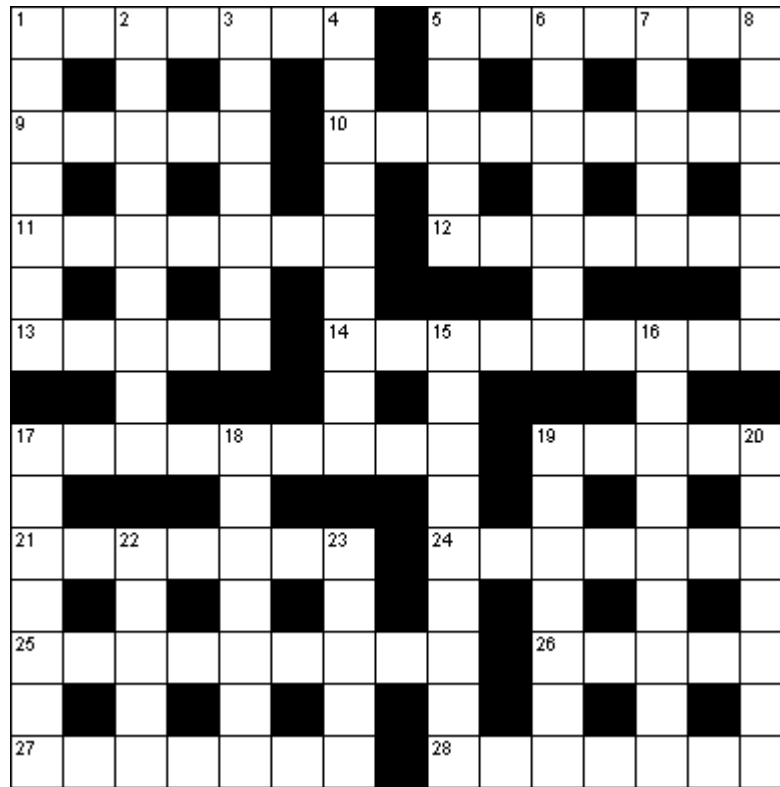


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by Kegler



Across

- 1 Provide water to lab animal caught by monstrous character (7)
- 5 Hit again and again, cheerless crowd recoils (7)
- 9 Itemizes fifty-one streets (5)
- 10 Put a more palatable spin on complicated court saga (9)
- 11 Anger, perhaps, from returning large book; it carries a charge (7)
- 12 Adoring senator grabs baseball glove (7)
- 13 In the audience, observed part of a play (5)
- 14 Regularly overlapping brick, mostly, framed by one friend (9)
- 17 Left to seethe with desire, ultimately, in hype for trashy novel (9)
- 19 Removes tool storage units (5)
- 21 Meet officials collecting black pieces of wood (7)
- 24 Gave a hard time to baldest stranger (7)
- 25 Near village housing German bedroom attire (9)
- 26 Row with character from "The X Files" unendingly (5)
- 27 Sort things out, with praise for Persia, perhaps (7)
- 28 Collides with small three-wheelers (7)

Down

- 1 Misanthropes seizing fifty tops (7)
- 2 Running into attractive women, true? False! (9)
- 3 A couple of authors add excitement to "Omen" (7)
- 4 New lease isn't necessary (9)
- 5 Travel back in bus? Unreal (5)
- 6 Drink in one streetcar heading north (7)
- 7 Gore frequently is flying (5)
- 8 Cadet entertains offering a cessation in hostilities (7)
- 15 Basic bed & breakfast hosts live individuals (4,5)
- 16 Our group boarding a second vehicle is stunned (9)
- 17 One kook returns wearing pea flower (7)
- 18 Unimpressive retreat acquired by crew member (3-4)
- 19 Less dense, fights with the lady after husband leaves (7)
- 20 Day after day involved in retail transactions for equestrian seats (7)
- 22 Mama hoards primarily gems and hot rocks? (5)
- 23 Recalled clever sayings about Red's rage (5)